

REMARKS

Overview of the Office Action

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-26, 28-30, and 32-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite.

Claims 1-7, 17-25, 36, and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,126,918 (“Roberts”), in view of U.S. Patent Appl. Pub. No. 2001/0023453 (“Sundqvist”).

Claims 10-12, 14, 16, 28-30, 32, and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Roberts and Sundqvist, and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0151197 (“Hui”).

Claims 15 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Roberts and Sundqvist in view of Hui, and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0014180 (“Myr”).

Claim 35 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Roberts and Sundqvist and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,643,256 (“Shimojo”).

Claims 8 and 26 have been found to contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 38 and 39 have been allowed.

Status of the claims

Claims 1 and 19 have been amended.

Claims 9, 13, 27, and 31 have previously been canceled.

Claims 2, 3, 8, 20, 21, and 26 have now been canceled.

Claims 38-39 have been allowed.

Claims 1, 4-7, 10-12, 14-19, 22-25, 28-30, and 32-39 remain pending.

Allowable subject matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 8 and 26 have been found to contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8 and 26 have been canceled.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 2 and 3 and the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 8. Independent claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 20 and 21 and the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 26.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 19 are now allowable over the cited references and all of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections are now moot.

Claims 4-7, 10-12, 14-18, 22-25, 28-30, and 32-39, which depend from now allowable independent claims 1 and 19, incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding allowable independent claim and are, therefore, also now allowable over the cited references.

Rejection of claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-26, 28-30, and 32-39 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Office Action states that the claims have been rejected as indefinite because they allegedly do not adequately differentiate between the differently claimed priorities.

Claims 1 and 19 have also been amended to change the phrase “thereby assigning a priority to the packets” to read “thereby assigning priority to the packets”, as suggested by the Examiner on page 14, item 11 of the Office Action to clarify that the “priority” recited throughout the claim refers to the same priority.

Applicants submit that this rejection has been overcome.

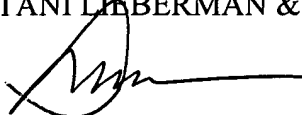
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims, in due course.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned to facilitate an early resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application, it may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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